



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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Japan

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Increased Testing of Lettuce Going to Japan

2005

Approved by:

Rachel Nelson
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Rachel Nelson

Report Highlights:

After a single violation, U.S. lettuce exports to Japan will now face increased testing for pesticide residues.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

After a single violation, U.S. lettuce exports going into Japan will now face increased testing for pesticide residues. Only a small percentage of imports are normally tested but Japanese Food Sanitation Law stipulates that after a violation occurs, testing must increase to 50%. According to the same law, if a second violation is found within the next year, all U.S. lettuce imports into Japan will face 'testing by order', which requires all product to be tested and held until results show there is no violation. U.S. lettuce exporters are advised to be very careful that their shipments do not violate pesticide residue standards in order to avoid increased monitoring levels.

The May 16, 2005 violation occurred on lettuce going into Tokyo. A residue of 3.1 ppm of Permethrin was found, and the legal limit is 3.0 ppm.